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EAST EUROPE BRANCH NOTES

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EAST GERMANY

Constitution Purged of Unitary German Nation Concept

The East German Parliament today approved a constitutional amendment that discards the outmoded concept of a unitary German nation. The action merely brings the constitution up to date with the policy of demarcation -- "Abgrenzung" -- that the regime has followed for the past several years. "Abgrenzung" specifically rejects the Brandt thesis that there are "two German states within one German nation." It promoted the development of a separate East German identity, one which is directed toward the "socialist community" and away from the traditional German concept of Vaterland.

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CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Training of North Vietnamese Youth Underway

The first contingent of DRV youth is now enrolled in a training program being conducted in Czechoslovakia's engineering, building, light and chemical industries. A Prague-Hanoi agreement signed last April stipulated that a total of 5,000 men and women will participate in the program during the next two years.

Each student will spend more than six years in the country. The youth will first undergo language training, then become apprentices for two to three years, and serve an additional three years as qualified workers.

Although this training program is designed to bolster Hanoi's economic reconstruction effort, it is also expected to aid in alleviating Czechoslovakia's chronic labor shortage.

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POLAND

Sop to the Soviets

Stanislaw Wronski, a disgraced former Minister of Culture, has been named as editor-in-chief of Nowe Drogi, the party's monthly theoretical journal. According to the Embassy, his main qualification for the job is his good standing with Moscow at a time when the Soviets want greater ideological coordination in Eastern Europe.

Wronski is a man of little intelligence, and it is unlikely that he will have much impact on the journal's editorial policy, which the Politburo establishes.

Wronski was removed as Minister of Culture in February because of a personal scandal involving his love affair with a young sculptress which ended in a public confrontation with his wife and his mistress outside the Ministry of Culture. It was rumored at the time that he had strong Soviet support to remain in his job. Indeed, the following joke made the rounds of Warsaw early this summer. "Have you heard who is replacing Pilotovich as Soviet Ambassador?" When the response was a puzzled no, the questioner would answer his own question. "Wronski."

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